

**COUNCIL MEETING, THURSDAY, JANUARY 11, 2018, 6:00 P.M.**

**The Mayor and City Council met in regular session on Thursday, January 11, 2018 at 6:00 p.m. with the following members present: Mayor Diaz, Council Members Rivas, Robinson, Lee, Garcia and Gonzales; City Manager Squyres, City Attorney DeFoyd and City Secretary Raines.**

**The Meeting was opened with Prayer and the Pledge of Allegiance.**

**A motion was made by Council Member Robinson and seconded by Council Member Lee to approve the minutes as presented: Vote: 5 For 0 Against**

**DEPARTMENT HEAD REPORTS:**

**Chief Ayala reported that they had made a visit to Jacinto City Elementary and did a presentation and introduction to the First Graders and they would be going to each level and they met with the principal and had lunch with the students. He advised that the Citizens Police Academy Class was beginning on May 15<sup>th</sup> through July 17<sup>th</sup> and would require attendance every Tuesday from 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. and explained what would be involved in the class and that they had some applications or they could pick them up at the police department.**

**Chief Ayala commended Officer Ali Kamali for his continued and frequent visits since Hurricane Harvey with Ms. Goodner who had just turned 93 years old and he was buying a Cake and card for her and he has kept visiting her because she has requested that he come by and check on her, she really appreciates it and he also appreciates it.**

**He stated he wanted to let them know that our K9 police dog Kyra, was in good physical health, she just had her checkup and they were going to make a presentation to North Shore Animal Hospital for the care of Kyra at no cost to the city.**

**Chief Ayala stated that for the month of December 2017 we had 97 total arrests, 49 warrant arrests, 14 DWI's, 7 narcotic arrests, 10 traffic arrest, 8 public intoxication arrests, 2 theft arrests, 1 interfering with**

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**public duties, 1 assault, 1 tampering with government document, 2 for evading and 2 for disorderly conduct.**

**Fire Chief Mier reported that it was pretty quite, that there was a wind advisory with the front coming in and reminded everyone to bring in small items that might be blown around. She advised that they had helped Galena Park with small fires.**

**Kyle Reed, Public Works Director, advised that it was going to be very cold and cautioned everyone to be sure and wrap their pipes, that in the next several days it was going to be in the 20's and he had a number of people call him today asking if they should let their faucets run, he stated that he wouldn't as long as you wrapped you pipes outside it wasn't necessary. He stated that we always fly the flags outside and for the people that noticed, he took them down because they were about to blow off the pole but they would be back up tomorrow.**

**Ivan Rojas, Parks and Recreation Director, advised that every month on the 4<sup>th</sup> Friday, the Food Bank would be providing for a Food Fair at the Gym and that the baseball leagues were starting to get ready for registration.**

**Mayor Diaz stated that she thought they were doing registration this Saturday and that the Leagues would be selling World Finest chocolate candy.**

**Ms. Avezuela from Jacinto City Library thanked Councilman Lee for reading the Night Before Christmas at the Library, that the kids loved it and advised that the Galena Park Library was closing for repairs and they could bring books that they had checked out at Galena Park and drop them off at the Jacinto City Library and could also check out books at the Jacinto City Library, that they would take care of them and had a lot of good programs for this year, the kids would be making a movie about what their community means to them and this would be kids between 11 and 14 years old.**

**City Manager Squyres commended the Public Works Department, stating that we were all wrapping our pipe but envision how many pipes the city itself has, not just our structures but our infrastructure has to be protected as well and we had 0 damage due to the freeze in the city so that said a lot about the hard work of Kyle's staff.**

**He stated that in addition to what was mentioned about the library, we have a little extra bonus, since Galena Park's library is closed we have their staff so he was at another meeting with them last night and he introduced us as the home of the best staffed library in Harris County because we have two staffs at one library. He advised that tomorrow we had the pre bid for the fire station, the pool was progressing very well and ask that they please go by and look at it and drive by and look at the police station and see how well it was coming, it was really starting to take shape now and things were looking good.**

**Mayor Diaz stated there was no unfinished business.**

**NEW BUSINESS:**

- 1. Council action on Variance Board's recommendation at 10245 Norvic, 10715 Market and 1300 Block of Cheston (Vacant lots)**

**City Manager Squyres stated that he could take 10245 Norvic off the list, they did not actually need a variance, they were in error so that leaves us with 10715 Market Street which would be our first one.**

**He stated the committee met two nights ago and unanimously voted to grant them two changes, one was the east property line which was the side setback line moving it from 10 ft. to 5 ft. and then the north property line, which was the back property line from 20 ft. to 10 ft. and call attention to the property on the screen and explained what the changes were going to be, He explained that there was some concern by Doyle's car clinic which was next door to the property but after talking with the**

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**Representative from Bestway welding Supply he was ok with the change since it was going to be an office building only, so they were being ask to approve two variance on this property, on the side setback on the east going from 10 ft. to 5 Ft. and on the back from 20 ft. to 10 ft..**

**Mayor Diaz ask if anyone was here from 10715 Market Street and if they would to explain their request.**

**Mr. Cotton Speed stated that he owned Bestway Welding Supply at 10715 Market Street and he had purchased that property over two years ago and they had outgrown the old lumber store that was there years ago and where Gonzales Paint and Body was they wanted to build a 6000 sq. ft. glass office building, that he had the plans with him and it was strictly going to be an office building, he stated that he spent a lot of time here growing up, that his parents had the welding supply place on the other side of Mercury Drive so this was where they were going to make their home at and would like for them to consider their request for the variance, there was just not much room there at all and he had talked with Mr. Doyle today about the construction and had answered all his concerns.**

**Mayor Diaz thanked him for having his business in Jacinto City.**

**Council Member Rivas ask him about fencing at the back and if he had any break in problems there.**

**Mr. Speed advise that there was a hurricane fence in the back and portions of it had barb wire at the top and they have not had a problem with anyone breaking in.**

**Council Member Gonzales ask about the drainage between the buildings and was advised that they had worked that out where there would not be a problem for either business.**

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**Council Member Garcia ask if the whole office building would be glass and was advised that the building would be a two story all glass front which faced Market Street.**

**A Motion was made by Council Member Garcia and seconded by Council Member Gonzales to support the recommendation of the Variance Board and approve the variances as requested. Vote: 5 For 0 Against**

**1300 Block of Cheston (vacant lots):**

**City Manager Squyres stated these were lots that were originally owned by Jacinto City Health Care and had changed hands a number of time With taxes not being paid on it, it went to auction and about six or seven years ago it was purchased by a Consortium represented by Mr. Isaac Menendez and they were looking to develop this property and originally Their plans were to put 16 units on this property and as the city administration, we felt like that was taxing, he and Kyle got together along with the police department and 16 units on that one piece of property didn't make a lot of since for water and sewer concerns if nothing else and Mr. Menendez came back with another plan and presented it two nights ago and he ask for four different things originally and during the meeting he consolidated his request down to two. One was an adjustment to the side setback lines, this was the setback line between six properties with each of these properties being 48 ft. with anywhere from 6 to 9 thousand square feet so they meet the lot size in square footage but between the houses there is a 10 Ft. easement, 5 ft. For each house and he wanted to reduce that from 10 ft. to 6 ft. which would be a 3 ft. easement for each house and the Board said no unanimously to that and the Board was asking that they deny it.**

**Mayor Diaz ask if there was anyone present on this variance request.**

**City Manager Squyres stated that Mr. Menendez call and stated that he did not think he was going to make it, he expressed that in all likely hood would build only the first house and then try to sell the remainder of the lots.**

**Council Member Lee stated that we were obviously talking about fire hazards and Mr. Squyres advised that was the issue.**

**Someone ask if there wasn't a pipeline that ran through there and Mr. Squyres advised that at one time years and years ago there was a vacated pipeline there, they bought the easement from the pipeline owner and dug it up, or at least a portion of it to vacate the easement so he has full rights to build on it now.**

**Council Member Garcia ask if there were anyone from the surrounding Area with concerns.**

**City Manager Squyres advised that three neighbors did attend that had Concerns about the houses being to close together causing fire concerns and security concerns, no one spoke in favor of granting him the variance.**

**Mr. Squyres stated that just for their information, he had also ask to change the front setback from 25 ft. to 15 Ft. and the big concern with that was where were you going to park the cars and then he had also ask for a waiver to let ones build an efficiency apartment in the rear of the lots as well and during the meeting he withdrew both of those requests.**

**A motion was made by Council Member Rivas and seconded by Council Member Robinson to uphold the Board's recommendation and not grant the variance. Vote: 5 voting to deny the variance – 0 voting to grant variance.**

- 2. Keep Jacinto Clean Committee to make comments and make recognition award.**

**Mr. Allen Jamail stated that he appreciated the service Mayor, Council's, City Manager and Staff's provide to the city and was proud to**

**live in Jacinto City. He stated that we have some good families in Jacinto City and we have some children of some very fine families. He stated he wanted to pay his respect to Councilman Mario Gonzales on the passing of his dad, that he knew his dad and he raised his children the way he wished we could get more parents to raise them and Mario was an example of his upbringing, he was a leader of this community and so that goes without saying how well he raised him and his family members and tonight he wanted to bring up someone else that he thought needs to be recognized and he as well had good parents and tonight he wanted to bring up the individuals name that we all know, he has an alias of Santa Clause but Roger Matheny who was here and he was raised by two very fine parents, Earl and Amelia and he remembered them well, they lived in that big house on the corner of Chazen and Lane Street Amelia was the Jacinto City Avon Lady and if you had her support, you had a very good chance of winning your election because she got around this city, she knew everything about everybody and if he ever needed to know something he would just call her but usually she would just call and tell him, he didn't have to ask her. He said he didn't see Tammy, his sister tonight but she started out as a young child in this city and joined the Jacinto City Junior Police and he was the police chief and they had 40 children that had uniforms and badges, we took them to ballgames and they did things in the community and they had a fire hydrant decorating at Christmas time and Tammy won first place, she painted the fire hydrant like Santa so that family contributed a lot to the city and still does. Roger was here tonight and Keep Jacinto City Clean wanted to recognize him because he had been volunteering for Santa Clause for family, friends and neighbors for 42 years and had been volunteering for this city for 15 years or so, he was the one on the fire truck in the parade and also Santa on the Fire Truck and he really enjoys doing this, you couldn't give him any money to do this he wants to do it and loves doing it. Mr. Jamail stated he remembered him coming by his street and Linda and he were out there with his grandson and the Santa Clause said Merry Christmas Allen and he look up and didn't know who it was, nobody knew and this was really the revolution of our Santa Clause and he really didn't want to do this**

**because he liked staying amamous but he grandson wondered how Santa knew his name and he told him Santa knew everyone and it was really fun to see things like that happen in this city. Mr. Jamail stated the newspaper they had in front of them was the latest thing that he did, He volunteered to go down to Jacinto City Health Care this year and he lit a spark in people's heart down there, he presented them with presents , posed with the residents and their family members there and it was a big event, the people were excited, he didn't think that Ms. Willie Edwards would get excited over Santa, that she was 97 years old and acted like the was maybe five years old and called attention to the picture in the paper but these were things we had going on in the city and he felt like we needed to recognize these people and let them know that is what makes Jacinto City different from other cities. He called attention to the picture of him posing with the Zumba dancers and we had the President of Keep Jacinto Clean Teresa, Irasema the Vice President and Santa Clause and he advised the Mayor that the Zumba really brought a lot of laughter and cheers so we have good people in the city doing things and they wanted to recognize them and they begged them to understand that they need a few minutes to do things like this and they were going to take a group photo at the end of the meeting and they would like for all of them to participate in it if they wanted to. He stated that this time he was going to have his wife Linda to present Roger with the award and Teresa wanted to present him with a Medallion. Mr. Jamail ask that everyone please join them for cookies after the meeting and thanked the Mayor for allowing them the time.**

**Mayor Diaz advised Mr. Matheny (best know as Santa Clause) that he knew that we appreciated everything he does for us and the city, not only as Santa Clause but providing all the music and sound system as well.**

**COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC:**

**There were no public Comments.**

**COUNCIL COMMENTS:**

**Council Member Rivas stated that he played Santa one year and really enjoyed it and would be glad to do it again, the spark that you give those people when they see him is something else, he was probably more excited than the kids were. He expressed sympathy to Council Member Gonzales and his family on the loss of his father. God bless everyone and stay warm.**

**Council Member Robinson thanked Roger for all that he does and like JJ we all have fun doing this and cautioned everyone to stay safe and warm.**

**Council Member Lee thanked Roger and that he couldn't wait to see how that beard turns out. He thanked everyone for being here and to stay warm and dry, there was a lot of nasty germs going around and people were getting sick to be careful out there.**

**Council Member Garcia stated she thought she was the only one sick up here but she guessed not she saw a bag of Hall's at the other end. She thanked Roger for all that he does, that he was always there for everybody and the recognition was well deserved and asked everyone to be safe.**

**Council Member Gonzales thanked Mr. Matheny for what he does for the city, that we really appreciate it and that was a well deserved award.**

**Mayor Diaz adjourned the meeting at 6:42 p.m..**

**Respectfully submitted,**



**Joyce Raines  
City Secretary**